

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

129-11

Assassination of President John F. Kennedy,
Dallas, Texas -- (November 22, 1963)

The appearance of Special Agent (SA) Regis L. Kennedy before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury on May 17, 1967, has caused concern in the Department and the Criminal Division has endeavored to evaluate the participation of all persons involved in the arrangements for the grand jury appearance.

There seems to have been no lack of appreciation that this Grand Jury appearance was considered to be of more than routine importance. It seems to be acknowledged that telegraphic instructions to the Special Agent and the guidance afforded to him by the United States Attorney were clear and were understood. It is suggested he received other advice which he recognized as calling for behavior different than that suggested by the above. There was ample opportunity before the appearance and during the appearance to be certain as to the desired behavior by recontacting the United States Attorney or the Special Agent in Charge. So far as we can determine, the Agent made no effort to account for the clear instructions he had received in writing as well as orally.

It is suggested that failure to seek any guidance in resolving conflicting requests or failure to adhere to clearly understood requests should be of serious concern to the Bureau.